

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 33-65 have been canceled. New claims 67-81 have been added. As such, claims 67-81 are currently pending in the present application.

Claims 59-61 stand objected to for various informalities. Claims 59-61 have been canceled, thereby rendering the objection to these claims moot.

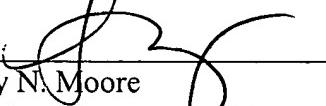
Claims 33-41, 43-45, 49-50, 53-55, 57, and 61-65 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,216,612 to Cornett et al. (“Cornett”) which incorporates by reference U.S. Patent No. 4,827,423 to Beasley et al. (“Beasley”). Claims 42, 46-48, 51, 52, 56, and 58-60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cornett and Beasley in view of Official Notice. Claims 33-65 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejections of these claims moot.

New independent claim 67 recites, in part, the features of “obtaining and storing maintenance and monitoring information related to the equipment in the object” and “determining whether the equipment is to be replaced based on information in the object.” Neither Cornett or Beasley teach obtaining and storing maintenance and monitoring information related to the equipment in the object. Furthermore, Cornett teaches that the system orders spare parts based on *predicted* maintenance, whereas the presently claimed invention orders spare parts based on maintenance and *monitoring* information. *See* Cornett, Abstract. The presently claimed invention is capable of assessing the current condition of equipment to determine if a spare part is needed and therefore maintenance predictions, as described in Cornett, are not necessary. Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claim 67, and all claims dependent therefrom, distinguish over the cited art.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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